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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PER-01 /014 W
---------- 064791
O 081025Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8655

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FOR EUR/EX JOAN CLARK FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: APER GR
SUBJECT: PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS
REF: A. STATE 94514; B. STATE 92278; C. STATE 91952

1. STEARNS AND I HAVE DISCUSSED PENDING PERSONNEL ASSIGN-
MENTS WITH THE EMBASSY SECTION CHIEFS CONCERNED AND BELIEVE
THAT WE HAVE REACHED A MEETING OF MINDS ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN.
THE SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTELS STRIKE US AS PRACTICAL
AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND WE APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT THAT HAS
GONE INTO THEM.

2. REGARDING THE STAFFING OF THE CONSULAR SECTION, WE
CONCUR IN THE APPROACH OUTLINED IN REF A, ALTHOUGH WE
BELIEVE THAT POSITION 31-033 SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE
DOWNGRADED TO O-4 LEVEL UNTIL THE TRANSFER OF THE INCUMBENT.
SIMILARLY, WE RECOMMEND TEMPORARY POSTPONEMENT IN UPGRADING
POSITION 30-532. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT FSO-4 PETER
COLLINS IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TO REPLACE ROGER LONG.
COLLINS SEEMS
TO HAVE AN EXCELLENT RECORD AND GREEK LANGUAGE FLUENCY AT
THE S-3 LEVEL. HE LOOKS LIKE A PROMISING CANDIDATE AND WE
WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF HIS CANDIDACY AS WELL AS
AN INDICATION OF WHEN HE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

3. REGARDING THE POLITICAL SECTION, WE ARE DEFINITELY
INTERESTED IN TERRY GRANT FOR POSITION 10-572, REPLACING
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JOHN COLLINS IN THE SUMMER OF 1976. GEORGE BARBIS BELIEVES

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THAT THE LABOR REPORTING AND CONTACT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS POSITION WILL ASSUME INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN VIEW OF THE UNSETTLED STATE OF THE GREEK LABOR MOVEMENT AND OUR NEED TO REBUILD CONTACTS WITH GREEK LABOR LEADERS ALMOST FROM SCRATCH. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT GRANT IS WELL-EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THIS ASPECT OF THE JOB, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE PREVIOUS LABOR REPORTING EXPERIENCE. YOUR OWN VIEWS AND THOSE OF DAN ON THIS POINT WOULD BE VALUABLE BEFORE WE REACH A FINAL DECISION.

4. POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE BUSIEST JOBS IN THE EMBASSY. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WORK HAS BEEN GENERATED BY THE US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND HOW MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. THE WORKLOAD IS CRUSHING AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES FAR-REACHING. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT A SECOND POLITICAL-MILITARY OFFICER IS REQUIRED AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS. THE NEWS THAT BOB PUGH'S EXTENSION IS BEING APPROVED IS WELCOME INDEED, BUT BOB WISHES TO TAKE HOME LEAVE THIS SUMMER AND HAS MORE THAN EARNED IT. THE TDY ASSIGNMENT OF A SECOND POL-MIL OFFICER FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPT 30 WOULD HELP US THROUGH WHAT PROMISES TO BE A CRUNCH PERIOD AND WOULD ALLOW PUGH TO TAKE HOME LEAVE TO WHICH HE IS ENTITLED. SINCE DWORKEN IS SLATED TO REPLACE PUGH IN THE SUMMER OF 1976, HE WOULD BE THE IDEAL CHOICE. I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR LOOKING ONCE AGAIN INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF OUR OBTAINING HIS SERVICES ON A TDY BASIS FROM JUNE THROUGH SEPT. WE DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH NELSON LEDSKY WHEN HE WAS HERE FOR ROUND II OF THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND I AM SURE THAT NELSON CAN CONFIRM FROM FIRST HAND OBSERVATION THAT THE REQUIREMENT IS BOTH URGENT AND IMPORTANT.
KUBISCH

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